COTTON CHATS

FROM

DRAPER COMPANY

SHIPMAN'S
COMMON-SENSE BINDER

PATENTED

JANUARY 19, 1892. APRIL 19, 1904

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ASA L. SHIPMAN'S SONS
MANUFACTURERS,
NEW YORK.

COTTON CHATS

By the secretary of the

DRAPER COMPANY,

HOPEDALE, MASS.

No. 57. DECEMBER, 1906.

THE SITUATION IN THE SOUTH.

As will be noted, this issue of Cotton Chats is somewhat delayed since the author has spent the last two months in the South, covering considerable cotton mill territory. Some of the conditions prevailing are of great interest. Mill men almost universally concede a crop of nearly, if not quite, 13,000,000 bales. They are also almost universal in condemning the quality of the present crop, believing it will show a much higher percentage than usual in waste, and make a much weaker yarn on the average.

Help is not so scarce as in the spring and summer, but wages remain high. There is considerable interest in the emigration experiment. On ordinary grades the mills are well sold ahead, at good prices. The general feeling is most cheerful. There is little thought of new mill building, but quite a number of present mills are planning enlargements, and many more are considering new machinery in place of their present equipment.

I found one mill in the South which had 5 weavers, with 40 Northrop print looms each, getting an average of over 90% without help from filling boys; in fact, the scarcity of small help in the South has practically eliminated the use of children to assist in filling hoppers. At another mill there were 16 weavers running 30 Northrop looms each, on sheetings, without assistance, getting an average of 93%; in fact, the 30-loom weavers averaged a higher percentage of product than those with 24 or 20 looms. At another mill they averaged 22 print looms to the weaver through the whole mill, which has a very large equipment, and they get

100% production, since the looms run over time sufficient to cancel the actual loss made during the regular 11 hours. These are wonderful showings for a machine with only 11 years of introduction, which started with a basis of 16 looms to the weaver.

As to weaving cost, there were many mills doing much better than our claim of halving the price per cut. The price paid in Southern mills for regular print cloth, standard length cuts, varies from 6 cents to 8 cents, according to locality. In one mill, the prices were 19 1-2 cents per cut on common loom grades, 9 cents on Northrop, for one line of goods, and 16 1-2 cents on common looms against 7 cents on Northrop, on another style. In another mill the price of weaving for the Northrop looms, counting in section hands and extra help of all kinds, was less than 50% of the common loom cost on the same goods. Several mills claimed less cost for repairs for Northrop looms as against common looms; in fact, one mill is considering replacing common looms which have only run three years, because they find less cost for both weaving and repairs and less seconds on their Northrop looms.

I found a most illogical argument being urged against the Northrop loom, it being suggested that when a Northrop loom weaver left the mill for any purpose, it would stop 24 looms, whereas a common loom weaver absent meant only the stopping of 8 looms. Of course, it is easily shown that in a common loom mill there would be three times as many weavers, who would certainly average the same number of days out per individual as the weavers in a Northrop mill; that is, they would average to have three weavers out in a common loom mill, as against one weaver in the Northrop loom mill, for the same causes.

The fact that the Northrop loom mills continue to buy Northrop looms is the most convincing argument that we know of. The mills which are experimenting with other so-called "automatic looms," are usually mills which have had no large experience with Northrop looms. There are several mills which have been willing to try the experiment of other automatic looms, since they have been supplied without charge for the purpose of experiment.

Our centrifugal clutch spindles are running in large numbers in various mills in the South, where they are giving excellent satisfaction. The bobbins are more easily removed during doffing, they stay down better on the spin-

dles, and the spindles make less slack yarn. There seems to be no question but that we have a vital and valuable improvement in this line.

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The United States Investor for Nov. 3, 1906, printed lists of Cotton Mill stocks which were selling above par. In the Northern Mill list there were thirty-nine quoted. Five of these were not weaving mills. Fifteen of the thirty-four averaged 1000 Northrop looms each.

In the Southern list there were forty mills, four of which were not weaving mills. There were thirty having Northrop looms and these thirty averaged over 1100 Northrop looms each.

If these facts do not prove that our looms either help mills to profit or are appreciated by those who make profits we are strangely lacking in logic.

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We all know how clearly imperfections in cloth are shown by running it over a black-board. We print photographs of cloth with a black paper background which seem to show up very well. These goods are made on Northrop looms with Dobby heads in a Southern cotton mill.